

Topic 1 **Current Events World**

1. **Vocabulary** (The **MP3** is available online)

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| 1. Protestors | Pro <u>tes</u> tors | 6. Blow | Bl <u>ow</u> |
| 2. Seize | Se <u>ize</u> | 7. Spark | Sp <u>ark</u> |
| 3. Fierce | F <u>ier</u> ce | 8. Readiness | Re <u>ad</u> i ness |
| 4. Coup | C <u>ou</u> p | 9. Jeopardise | Je <u>op</u> ar <u>dis</u> e |
| 5. Oust | <u>O</u> ust | 10. Lament | La <u>men</u> t |

	Word	Form	Definition	Example	Similar to	Parts of Speech
1	Protestor	n	A person who publicly demonstrates strong objection to something.	Some protestors in the crowd began to throw missiles at the police.	Demonstrator, Objector, Activist	Protest n Protests v
2	Seize	v	To take something using official power and force.	Customs officials have seized 100 kilos of cocaine.	Grab, Take, Snatch	
3	Fierce	adj	Furiously active or determined.	The two teams have had a fierce rivalry for many years.	Fervent, Keen, Intense	Fierce adj Fierceness n
4	Coup	n	An occasion when a group of people takes control of a country, usually by means of military force.	He was jailed for his part in the attempted coup .	Coup d'état, Revolution, Overthrow	
5	Oust	v	To cause or force (someone or something) to leave a position of power, a competition, etc.	The rebels ousted the dictator from power.	Depose, Dethrone, Dislodge	Ouster n

	Word	Form	Definition	Example	Similar to	Parts of Speech
6	Blow	<i>n</i>	An unfortunate or calamitous happening.	His failure to land the job came as a blow .	Catastrophe, Calamity Disappointment	Blow v Blow n
7	Spark	<i>v</i>	To make someone feel, think of, or remember something.	Your story sparked off happy memories for me.	Provoke, Set off, Stimulate	Spark v Spark n
8	Readiness	<i>n</i>	The state of being fully prepared for something.	The couple are preparing a nursery in readiness for the baby's arrival.	Preparedness, Aptitude, Ability	Ready adj Ready v
9	Jeopardise	<i>v</i>	Put (someone or something) into a situation in which there is a danger of loss, harm, or failure.	If I don't go to the meeting today, it might jeopardise my chances of getting a promotion.	Endanger, Imperil, Threaten	Jeopardize (v Amr) Jeopardy n
10	Lament	<i>v</i>	Express regret or disappointment over something considered unsatisfactory, unreasonable, or unfair.	She lamented the lack of shops in the town.	Bemoan, Deplore, Criticize	Lament n

2. Reading and Listening (The *MP3* is available online)

Turkish police have used tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannon against **protestors** outside the offices of a national newspaper in Istanbul. The demonstrators were protesting against the takeover of a private newspaper by the Turkish government. Turkish authorities **seized** control of the company that owns Turkey's best-selling newspaper Zaman. The paper was once a supporter of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but then became one of his **fiercest** critics. Authorities say Zaman has links to the US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who the government says plotted a **coup** to **oust** President Erdogan. Commentators say it is another **blow** for freedom in Turkey.

The takeover of Zaman by the Turkish government has **sparked** concerns in Europe about Turkey's **readiness** to join the European Union. European Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn said the latest developments **jeopardised** recent progress made by Turkey. The chairman of Germany's foreign affairs committee said, "the violent action against a critical newspaper" and "the fact that the government takes over the whole paper is a severe blow...against the freedom of press". The editor-in-chief of Zaman's English newspaper **lamented**: "Our [final] headline is about us again, and that should give an idea about the kind of democracy in the country. There's no rule of law left in Turkey."

Sources:

<http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1603/160307-newspapers.html>

<http://news.sky.com/story/1654121/paper-takeover-protesters-tear-gassed-in-turkey>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/ct-turkey-zaman-newspaper-takeover-20160305-story.html>

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/police-disperse-supporters-of-zaman-mediagroup.aspx?pageID=238&nid=96076>

3. Conversation Strategies

Giving your opinion about a topic	Agreeing
Expressing a strong opinion	Expressing complete agreement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In my opinion, ... • In my view, ... • In my reckoning, ... • I strongly believe in ... • I definitely think that ... • Well, if you ask me, ... • Well, I think ... • I believe • I strongly believe • I have a reason to believe • I'm sure that... • I'm pretty sure that... • Expressing a strong value (It's / They're + value adjective) • It's a nonsense to ... • ... It's a scandal, because ... • It's perfect for ... • It's wrong... Likewise, ... • They're ideal ... • Expressing certainty • According to government statistics, ... • Actually, ... • In fact, ... • Clearly, ... • Obviously, ... • People have always ... • People just won't continue to ... • Without doubt, ... • There's no doubt that • Undoubtedly • Surely, ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exactly! • Precisely! • Totally! • Absolutely! • That's right! • Correct! • You're right! • You're so right! • That's so true! • I couldn't agree with you more! • I'm with you on that • That's just what I was thinking! • That's exactly what I think. • That's a good point. • That's just how I see it. • My feelings exactly. • I'll say! • You can say that again! • Agreeing in part • Yes, perhaps, however ... • Well, yes, but ... • Yes, in a way, however ... • Hmm, possibly, but ... • Yes, I agree up to a point, however ... • Well, you have a point there, but ... • There's something there, I suppose, however... • I guess you could be right, but ... • Yes, I suppose so, however ... • That's worth thinking about, but ... <p>Expressing conditional agreement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'd agree with you if ... • I'd certainly agree if you're thinking of ...

4. Phrasal Verbs

These *Phrasal Verbs* are very common in relation to **Current Events World**.

Phrase	Meaning	Collocation	Example
Step down	Withdraw or resign from an important position or office:	President	He says he plans to step down from parliament after the next general election.
Speak out	Express one's feelings or opinions frankly and publicly:		Things are changing. More and more people are speaking out , more and more people are marching in the streets.
Root *out*	To find and remove (something or someone)	Corruption Problem	The Chinese government has pledged to root out corruption .
Rein *in*	To limit or control (someone or something)	Extremists	The Government of Yemen has taken measures to rein in foreign extremists .
Play *down*	To attach little importance to	Fears Concerns	The minister tried to play down fears that there would be a repeat of the war.

5. Idioms

These Idioms are common and are connected to **Current Events World**.

Idioms/Phrases	Meaning	Situation	Example
Economical with the truth	If someone, especially a politician, is economical with the truth, they leave out information in order to create a false picture of a situation, without actually lying.	Used in relation to politics mostly.	I would be being economical with the truth if I were to tell you that I was enjoying myself.
Toe the line	If someone toes the line, they follow and respect the rules and regulations.	Used in politics and in situations when you feel negative about the decisions you take.	Not everyone was happy with the plan, but most of us toed the line .
Gunboat diplomacy	If a nation conducts its diplomatic relations by threatening military action to get what it wants, it is using gunboat diplomacy.	Not true diplomacy.	Finally, after a display of gunboat diplomacy by the USA, Iran withdrew its forces from the region.
Get on your soapbox	If someone on their soapbox, they hold forth (talk a lot) about a subject they feel strongly about.	Usually used when talking about someone who is going to bore you with his/her speech again.	It was that point in the evening when my father got on his soapbox and started lecturing us on the evils of the modern world.